



Power County

October 2008

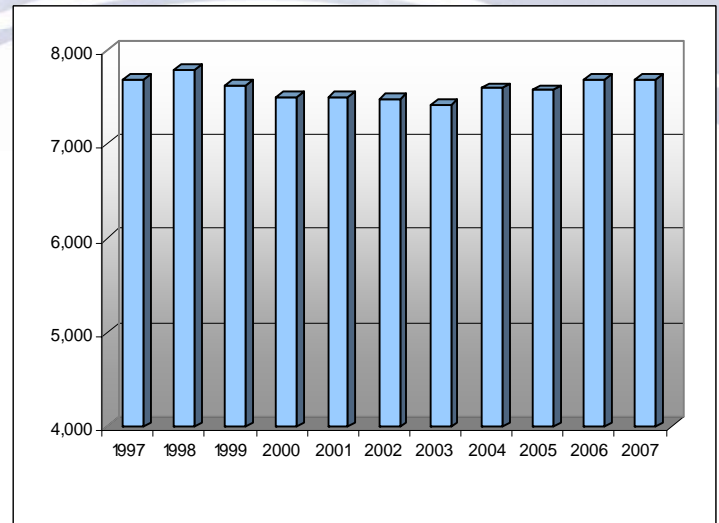
Work Force Trends

Population

Power County's population has fluctuated in a range of about 250 people over the past ten years, but for the most part has remained fairly steady. The population estimate for 2007 of 7,684 is only four more than the 1997 population of 7,280.

Population increased early in the decade mostly from births minus deaths, as well as international and domestic migration. But the loss of manufacturing jobs forced individuals to leave the county to find work, and its population steadily decreased until 2003 when it began to rebound.

The American Falls Reservoir, the largest on the Snake River, sparkles as one of the best boating and fishing lakes in the state and also provides irrigation water storage and hydroelectric power. The original American Falls, below the dam, adds stunning scenery to the county's lush and fertile farm land.



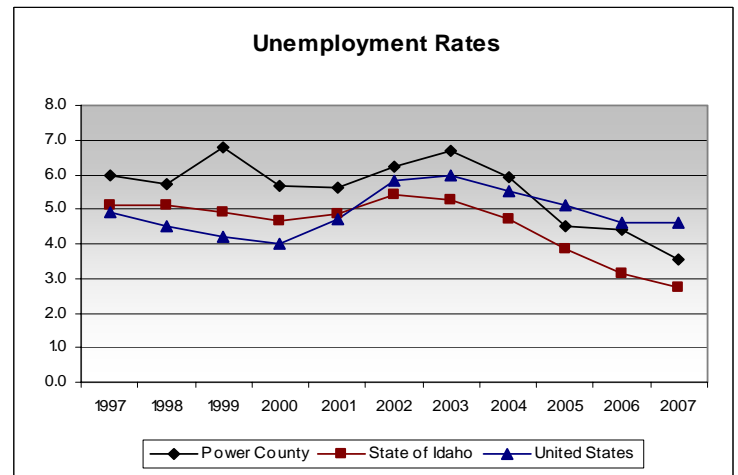
Labor Force & Employment

Power County has a diverse and highly-skilled work force with an excellent work history. The county is heavily dependent on agriculture and manufacturing. Unemployment remained high throughout the decade because the county endured economic fluctuations that often occur in natural resource based economies.

Manufacturing provides most of the county's employment, and diversification is necessary to this county's continued success. The many marinas and beaches, excellent trout fishing and wind and water conditions draw tourists, which helps support the cities of American Falls and Aberdeen. Aberdeen is home to the University of Idaho's highly regarded Agricultural Experimental Station.

Between 1997 and 2007, the civilian labor force increased by 330 and employment increased by 406 workers. Since employment rose at a faster rate than the civilian labor force, the annual unemployment rate decreased to 3.5 percent in 2007 from 6.0 percent in 1997.

Several new retail businesses and business expansions in American Falls and the opening of a call center in Rockland



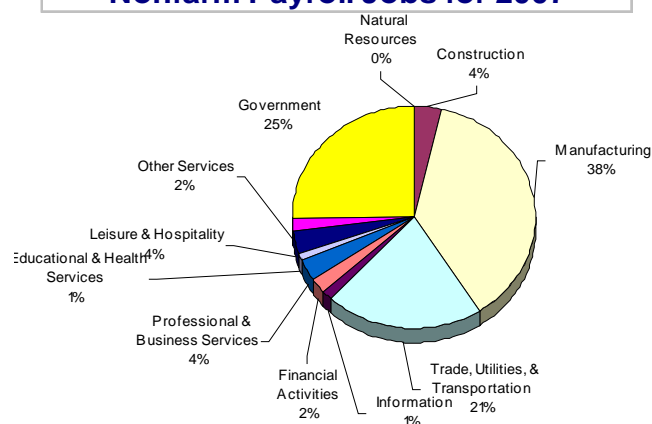
improved the labor market in the mid 1990s but the loss of Astaris LLC at the end of 2001 resulted in many jobs being eliminated in the county for the following three years. Many of those workers struggled to find jobs in the area. Some of them left the area and some took jobs agricultural not covered by unemployment insurance.

Much of Power County's economy is based of agriculture and agriculture related businesses. With the improvement in those businesses it is expected the area will prosper over the next few years.

Labor Force	Sep 2007	Sep 2008
Civilian Labor Force	4,024	3,967
Total Employment	3,919	3,771
Unemployed	105	196
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.6	4.9
State of Idaho % Unemployed	2.7	5.0
U.S. % Unemployed	4.7	6.1

Labor Force	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Civilian Labor Force	3,491	3,644	3,465	3,611	3,530	3,556	3,651	3,743	3,760	3,834	3,819
Unemployment	210	209	237	206	198	221	243	222	169	168	135
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.0	5.7	6.8	5.7	5.6	6.2	6.7	5.9	4.5	4.4	3.5
Employment	3,281	3,435	3,228	3,405	3,332	3,335	3,408	3,521	3,591	3,666	3,684

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2007



Industry Employment & Wages

Even though manufacturing jobs decreased over the decade, the industry still provides 28 percent of jobs in Power County and pays the highest wages.

- Government provides 27 percent of the jobs in Power County with many of the jobs in local government, primarily in the education sector.
- The average covered wage of \$29,383 in Power County ranks high among the counties in the state. The high wage is influenced by the large number of workers in manufacturing, whose average wage of \$40,422 is 24 percent higher than the state average.

Major Employers

AMS, Inc
Christiansen Implement
Con Agra
Driscoll Potatoes
Double L Manufacturing
E & R Transportation
J. R. Simplot Company

Occupational Wages*

Starting Wages

Cashiers, Retail	\$6.23
Cooks	\$6.76
Food & Beverage Servers	\$5.85
Janitors	\$6.86
Construction Laborers	\$8.10
Maids	\$6.07
Nurses, Registered	\$19.83
General Office Clerks	\$7.35
Auto Mechanics	\$10.24
Teachers	\$31,750.00

* Additional Occupational Wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor Web site at lmi.idaho.gov.

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 1997, 2006, & 2007	1997		2006		2007	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	4,049	\$25,449	3,084	\$29,349	3,206	\$30,674
Agriculture	388	\$17,225	430	\$22,486	447	\$24,051
Mining	*	*	*	*	0	\$0
Construction	109	\$20,111	77	\$27,672	100	\$28,560
Manufacturing	1,782	\$35,354	1,001	\$40,405	1,040	\$42,282
Trade, Utilities, & Transportation	633	\$17,277	570	\$23,511	584	\$26,212
Information	21	\$27,381	34	\$36,932	35	\$40,003
Financial Activities	79	\$17,169	62	\$22,408	67	\$21,579
Professional and Business Services	157	\$17,233	86	\$33,516	80	\$34,562
Educational and Health Services	42	\$20,400	35	\$24,705	32	\$24,003
Leisure and Hospitality	128	\$5,695	83	\$7,650	88	\$7,104
Other Services	51	\$15,043	37	\$19,023	44	\$22,661
Government	657	\$20,090	670	\$25,622	689	\$25,330

Per Capita Income	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Power County	\$18,505	\$18,505	\$19,980	\$20,673	\$18,967	\$20,071	\$18,236	\$20,519	\$20,301	\$21,535
State of Idaho	\$20,648	\$21,789	\$22,786	\$24,077	\$25,024	\$25,221	\$25,524	\$27,361	\$28,301	\$29,920
United States	\$25,334	\$26,883	\$27,939	\$29,843	\$30,574	\$30,821	\$31,504	\$33,123	\$34,757	\$36,714

Information provided by U.S. Census Bureau



This county is served by the office listed below:
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